Damon Thomas

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Summary

Self-taught full-stack developer with hands-on experience building and deploying web apps. Former franchise manager and military officer with experience leading teams, managing operations, and adapting quickly to new environments.

Skills

Core: HTML, CSS, Javascript, Typescript, Node.js, PostgreSQL, React
Expanded: Express.js, Next.js, Jest, Supertest, Prisma ORM, Vite, TailwindCSS

Experience

Full Stack Developer, Contract – St.Catharines, ON   May 2025 – Present
- Built a client-focused Next.js portfolio website using a REST API and Strapi CMS, enabling full control over text, images, and content
- Optimized website for speed and user experience, achieving 0.5s load times and LCP on all pages by optimizing images, using a CDN, and leveraging Next.js tools
- Ensured fast, SEO-friendly performance with a Lighthouse score of 100 by using SSR, optimized image loading, and efficient data fetching via Prisma and PostgreSQL

Associate Franchise Partner and Manager, M&M Food Market – St.Catharines, ON   Apr 2017 – June 2025
- Operated $1M–$1.3M/year franchise, overseeing staff, inventory, finances, customer service, advertising, brand standards, and franchisor relationship
- Scaled team from 4–10 employees and managed $80K–$100K monthly sales (peaking at $200K), with weekly $10K–$18K inventory orders

Officer (2Lt), Canadian Armed Forces—Oromocto, NB   June 2012 – Apr 2017
- Completed officer development program including academic, physical, military, and linguistic training
- Led teams of 4 to 75 personnel in training exercises, physical training, and ceremonial parades while holding leadership roles such as Section Commander and Deputy Squadron Leader
- Attained Basic Military Officer Qualification (BMOQ) and BMOQ-L, leading mission-based teams of 4–30 personnel

Projects

Zuno: A Social Media Site   zuno.damonthomas.dev
- Seeded database with 1,000+ entries to test functionality with realistic data
- Implemented infinite scrolling to load 100+ posts and comments in under 1 second

Terminal Chat   messaging-app-beta-six.vercel.app
- Added a profanity filter to handle inappropriate user inputs
- Integrated GDPR-compliant analytics, measuring a 33% bounce rate

Finding Fiasco   wheres-waldo-gilt.vercel.app
- Implemented a global leaderboard; played 250+ times with 10% completion rate
- Used dynamic image coordinates for full responsiveness across devices

Education

Self-Study – Software Development   Nov 2023 - Present
Odin Project – Full Stack Web Development   Mar 2024 - June 2025
Royal Military College of Canada – BA in English   May 2016